

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OTRA (ECONOMOU, ROSE), SPOP, PL

SUBJECT: JOURNALIST'S INQUIRY ON FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASES

REFERENCE: STATE 189532

1. MS. ECONOMOU HAS PROVIDED ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN'S OFFICE WITH FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN ADDITION TO THAT IN REFTEL.
 2. MS. ECONOMOU AND HER CAMERA CREW WERE ADVISED BY POLISH CONSULATE IN CHICAGO THAT VISA WOULD BE AUTHORIZED FOR PERIOD AUGUST 25 - SEPTEMBER 5. ECONOMOU AND TV CREW PROBABLY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TRAVEL TO POLAND UNTIL AUGUST 28. FIRM ITINERARY WILL BE FORWARDED BY DEPARTMENT WHEN RECEIVED.
 3. IN THEIR VISA APPLICATION, TV TEAM ADVISED POLES OF FOUR SPECIFIC INTERESTS: DOING A TRAVELOGUE THROUGHOUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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- POLAND; VISITING SEASIDE RESORTS TO FILM LEISURE ACTIVITIES; VISITING AND LIVING WITH POLISH WORKING FAMILY IN NOWA HUATA WHERE THE LENIN STEELWORKS ARE LOCATED; AND INTERVIEW WITH POLISH FOREIGN MINISTER ON DIVIDED FAMILIES.
4. POLISH CONSULATE IN CHICAGO HAS INDICATED POLISH GOVERNMENT APPROVAL FOR TRAVELOGUE THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

(PRESUMABLY INCLUDING SEACOAST) ITINERARY DEPENDING ON WISHES OF TV TEAM. CONSULATE DID NOT ADDRESS REQUEST REGARDING STEELWORKER FAMILY BUT INDICATED APPROVAL FOR CREW TO FILM A WORKERS CELEBRATION AT THE STEELWORKS. MS. ECONOMOU BELIEVES POSSIBILITIES FOR STAYING WITH STEELWORKER FAMILY ARE NOT FORECLOSED BUT SEEKS DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE ON HOW TO PROCEED.

5. THE CONSULATE RESPONDED TO THE REQUEST FOR THE INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BY INDICATING THAT THERE WAS NO ONE RPT NO ONE AVAILABLE TO SPEAK TO THE ISSUE OF DIVIDED FAMILIES. IT IS UNCLEAR TO ECONOMOU, AND TO DEPARTMENT FOR THAT MATTER, AS TO FULL MEANING OF THIS REPLY, UNLESS THE MESSAGE IS THAT NO POLISH OFFICIAL WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SUCH AN INTERVIEW.

6. POST SHOULD BE AWARE THAT MS. ECONOMOU DOES NOT WISH TO INTERVIEW EMBASSY PERSONNEL (REFTEL, PARA 1). DEPARTMENT HAD SUGGESTED TO HER UTILITY OF AN EMBASSY BRIEFING PRIOR TO ANY EFFORT BY TV TEAM TO INTERVIEW DIVIDED FAMILIES. SHE AGREED WHOLEHEARTEDLY. WE HAVE ADVISED HER THAT PRIVACY ACT AND OTHER CONSTRAINTS PRECLUDE USG FROM FREELY GIVING OUT NAMES OF VISA APPLICANTS OR DIVIDED FAMILIES WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION. IN TURN, MS. ECONOMOU IS DETERMINING FROM FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE U.S. THE FEELINGS ABOUT HER POSSIBLY INTERVIEWING POLISH RELIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TIVES IN POLAND, AND SHE WILL CAREFULLY WEIGH EMBASSY VIEWS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED IN PARA 3, REFTEL SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN CONTEXT OF ABOVE INFORMATION, TOGETHER WITH HIGH REGARD FOR MS. ECONOMOU'S PROFESSIONALISM AND SERIOUSNESS HELD BY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES DERIAN AND CARTER WHO KNOW HER PERSONALLY. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S THOUGHTS ON POSSIBILITIES FOR DIVIDED FAMILY INTERVIEW, TOGETHER WITH SUGGESTIONS ON PROSPECTS AND ADVISABILITY FOR STAY WITH POLISH FAMILY. VANCE

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